

Message Text

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41

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL SEPT 15-16: HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE FIRST DAY

REF EC BRUSSELS 71377

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL MET IN BRUSSELS ON SEPT 15. MOST DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE PRODUCER/ CONSUMER CONFERENCE AND PORTUGAL (THE LATTER SUBJECT IS REPORTED SEPTEL). IN ADDITION, THE MINISTERS PREPARED FOR THE TURKISH ASSOCIATION COUNCIL DUE TO MEET ON SEPT 16; BRIEFLY DISCUSSED GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION; HEARD A STATEMENT FROM DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL ON THE COMMUNITY'S GSP PROPOSALS FOR 1976 AND RECEIVED A REPORT FROM DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER NORGAARD ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE: FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER
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SAUVAGNARGUES INFORMED HIS COLLEAGUES OF THE FRENCH ISSUANCE

OF INVITATIONS FOR THE PREPCON II, THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHICH WAS MADE IN PARIS AS HE BEGAN HIS REMARKS IN BRUSSELS. SAUVAGNARGUES REVIEWED THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FRENCH AIDE MEMOIRE AND SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE POSITIVE NATURE OF US COOPERATION. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT, WHILE REMAINING A FRENCH DRAFT, THE AIDE MEMOIRE HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED IN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK AND THANKED HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR "VALUABLE" CONTRIBUTIONS. SAUVAGNARGUES' COLLEAGUES RESPONDED BY AGREEING TO EC ACCEPTANCE OF HIS INVITATION AND PRAISING THE "COOPERATIVE SPIRIT" WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE FRENCH EFFORT. UK REPRESENTATIVE HATTERSLEY, WHILE APPROVING OF THE FRENCH INVITATION, WENT ON RECORD AS RESERVING THE BRITISH POSITION ON ATTENDANCE AT THE FULL CONFERENCE. HATTERSLEY REITERATED THE BRITISH VIEW (DUBBED BY BURSSLS WAGS AS THE "SON OF RENEGOTIATION"), SAYING THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CONSENT TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE FULL CONFERENCE BY THE COMMUNITY UNLESS IT WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS WHICH THE COMMUNITY PROPOSED TO TAKE.

3. GREECE: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF THE GREEK APPLICATION FOR FULL EC MEMBERSHIP. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD, THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION'S OPINION ON THE APPLICATION WOULD BE READY "BY THE END OF THE YEAR". WE UNDERSTAND FITZGERALD INITIATED A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF FULL MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE ON THE COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, STRESSING THE NEED FOR THE MINISTERS TO BEGIN USING QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

4. EC/CEMA DISCUSSIONS: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER NORGAARD REPORTED ON HIS BRIEF TRIP TO MOSCOW, SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT CEMA WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THE COMMISSION'S INVITATION TO CONTINUE IN BRUSSELS THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH BEGAN IN MOSCOW LAST FEBRUARY. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE TOLD US OF THE ILL-DISGUISED GLEE WITH WHICH THE MINISTERS GREETED NORGAARD'S STATEMENT THAT CEMA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FEDEYEV WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIM "BECAUSE OF ILLNESS." (A SIZEABLE RESIDUE OF ILL-FEELING CONTINUES TO EXIST REGARDING THE DANES' MALADROIT HANDLING OF THE INITIAL CONTACTS WITH CEMA. THESE SENTIMENTS WERE NOT DISSIPATED BY NORGAARD'S UNSANCTIONED ATTEMPT TO RESUSCITATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EC/CEMA DIALOGUE.)

5. GSP: DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL READ A SHORT STATEMENT TO HIS COLLEAGUES URGING THAT THEY TAKE UP THE COMMUNITY'S 1976 GSP PROPOSALS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS STATEMENT EVOKED NO COMMENT.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE ON SEPT 16

WITH DISCUSSIONS OF THE STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY'S NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES AND THE PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHREK. THE MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO
DISCUSS LONG-TERM FOOD CONTRACTS FOR EGYPT (REFTEL) AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION. THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL WILL ALSO MEET AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. GREENWALD

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